

Bradford for sale.

1894/1/1/34

~~Among~~ the curious sights of the town is the "Halifax gibbet" - "devil's ladder". It was long the custom of the weavers ~~and it is now~~ in some parts of the Clothing District to stretch their long pieces of white (undyed) cloth upon tenters; & leave it to dry upon the hill-side. Softer they left it day & night without any watch. This was a great temptation to thieves, but if they were found with stolen goods upon him, <sup>upon</sup> to the value of 13 s. d., "Off with his head!" said Halifax Law. & and, if it were market day, he was carried to the gibbet & beheaded on the spot. So Halifax became a name of terror to thieves who learnt to let the cloth of the Halifax weavers alone.

Now you read 'Robinson Crusoe'? ~~So~~ ~~we~~ ~~advise~~ ~~you~~ ~~to~~ ~~take~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~look~~ ~~and~~ ~~for~~ ~~it~~ ~~the~~ All boys & girls who have had that pleasure will think the better of Halifax when they know that part of this delightful tale was written <sup>here, at a</sup> ~~in~~ ~~called~~ ~~the~~ ~~name~~ ~~of~~ ~~Halifax~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~18th~~ ~~century~~.

<sup>The Clothing Towns: Huddersfield, &c.</sup>  
Huddersfield is another exceedingly 'well-to-do' town on clothing town on the great coal-field. Like Bradford & Halifax, it is built of stone, & has wide streets & good buildings, various excellent institutions for the townspeople. You may count more than a hundred tall chimneys in the town alone, belonging to cotton mills for the most part; and the pretty valleys which open ~~out~~ <sup>small at</sup> ~~of the town~~ on all sides hold many clothing villages. Going out of Huddersfield, westward, you are in the <sup>moor</sup> ~~mountain~~ country which on the borders of Yorkshire & Lancashire. There are <sup>many</sup>

many edges - Stout Edge, Longwood Edge.

[illegible]



London, that of Wakefield is the largest in England.  
 As the Yorkshire farmers gather, ~~on market-days~~  
 much business is done, ~~many~~ <sup>cracked</sup> ~~bread~~ <sup>at</sup> "merry Wakefield," on market-days.  
 There is a bridge over the Calder, & on the bridge  
 is a little chapel, raised by King Edward IV of  
 England that prayers might be ~~made~~ <sup>said</sup> there  
 for his father's soul, because, ~~as~~ <sup>as</sup> a spot  
 close by the bridge, on the right-hand of the  
 Calder, the Duke of York was slain in the famous  
 battle of Wakefield, (1460). This was how it  
 happened:-  
 In the year 1455 was fought the first battle in the  
 famous Wars of the Roses. A sad time for England  
 followed. For sixteen years war raged up & down  
 the land, & though the people in the towns went  
 on with their business, all the great barons  
 & their retainers fought either for the House of  
 York or for that of Lancaster. The king <sup>Henry VI</sup> belonged  
 to the House of Lancaster. He could not see any  
 reason why he should not be king as long as  
 he lived, & leave the crown to his son. He said,  
 "My father was king; his father also was king;  
 I myself have worn the crown for forty years from  
 my cradle. (his father, Henry V, had died when he  
 was a baby. You have all sworn fealty to me  
 as your sovereign. Now, then, can my right  
 be disputed?" The king was right enough; there  
 was no good reason why he should not be  
 king. But he was often ill & unable to govern  
 the land himself, so things went wrong, & the  
 king was blamed. When Richard, Duke of York,  
 declared that he had <sup>a better</sup> ~~the best~~ right to be king  
 of England, he found many ready to support him.

His

his claim was, that he & the King were both descended from Edward III, & that he was more nearly related to this King than was Henry.

We cannot follow all the events of this frequent Civil War in which twelve pitched battles were fought. But in <sup>the year</sup> 1460, it seemed ~~off~~ of the matter were in a fair way to be settled. The King was in the hands of the Duke of York, who proposed that he should reign for the rest of his life, but that ~~the Duke should succeed him~~, when he died, the crown should pass to the House of York. But Henry's wife, the Queen Margaret, was much more ambitious, & less gentle in spirit than her husband; moreover, her ~~mother's~~ heart. She could not allow that her son, Edward, Prince of Wales, should be deprived of his rights. The House of Lancaster had many friends in the north, so, making York the rallying place, the Queen raised <sup>her</sup> an army of ~~18,000~~ 18,000 men, while many powerful nobles joined her (standing) to Lord Clifford, Streville, the Earl of Northumberland, Earl of Wiltshire, & ~~the Duke of~~ the Duke of Exeter ~~abandoned~~. She better tolerated this army. She <sup>at that time</sup> proclaimed that the men who joined her should have leave to plunder the country south of the Trent.

The Duke of York set out from London to meet her, with an army of four or five thousand men. About two miles from Wakefield he still ~~was~~ seen the <sup>city</sup> of Sandal Castle, a fortress belonging to Richard. Here he took up his quarters to wait for the arrival of his son Edward, Earl of March, with another army from Wales. The Queen advanced with her troops, but failed

to force the Castle. He then placed troops in  
ambush on each side of Wakefield Green under the  
command of Lord Clifford with Earl of Wiltshire,  
appearing before the Castle with the main body  
of his army, with many threats & insults he  
provoked the Duke to battle. So he left behind  
the protection of Sandal Castle & descended with  
his small army upon Wakefield Green. "Ruf."  
says an old historian, "When he was in the plain  
ground between his castle & the town of Wakefield  
he was environed on every side, like a fish in  
a net; & ~~as~~ deer in a buck-stall so that he,  
manfully fighting, was within half an hour  
slain & dead, this whole army discomfited,  
& with him died besides his noble friends  
two thousand & eight hundred others, ~~there~~ <sup>where</sup>  
many were young gentlemen & heirs of great  
parentage in the South part, whose friends  
avenged their deaths within four months <sup>after</sup> ~~which~~  
& Lord Clifford, whose father was slain at the  
battle of St. Albans, had taken oath that he would  
not leave a man of the House of York alive; and  
"the slaughter given at Wakefield, he was  
called the boucher" (butcher). The story goes  
that he came to the place where lay the body  
of York, covered with manure; so he struck  
off the head, & set on it a crown of paper, & he  
fixed it on a pole & presented it to his Queen, at  
which present was much joy, but many  
laughed then that soon came to be after. The  
Queen had the head carried to York & fixed in  
Tricklegate Bar.

"So York may overlook the town of York."  
mother tale is told of Clifford's ferocity in this same  
war -

battle: but ~~two~~ While the fight was raging, the young  
 Earl of Rutland, <sup>the second</sup> ~~the second~~ son of Richard of York, a  
 fair gentleman & a maiden like person, was  
 gently & secretly led away from the field by his  
 schoolmaster. But the two were espied by the  
 Lord Clifford, who, in a fierce voice, asked the  
 boy who or what he was. The young gentleman,  
 dismayed, had not a word to speak, but knelt on  
 his knees, imploring mercy, both with holding  
 up his hands & making dolorous countenance  
 for his speech was gone for fear. 'Save him'  
 said his schoolmaster, 'for he is a prince's son,  
 - may do you good hereafter.' With that word  
 the Lord Clifford marked him, & said, 'They  
 father shall mine, & so will I do thee all my  
 kin.' Wherein he raised his dagger & slew

The boy <sup>three months after</sup>, this same  
 Clifford was slain, <sup>on the day before the battle of</sup> ~~upon~~ Towton Field, struck  
 in the throat by a headless arrow. There is  
 some reason to doubt his story of the death of  
 the Earl of Rutland. Shakespeare in his play  
 of Henry VI. makes the sons of the Duke of  
 valorous than this lad of sixteen, <sup>however</sup> ~~there is reason to doubt~~  
 appears to have <sup>his story of the death of</sup> ~~been~~ <sup>however</sup> ~~there is reason to doubt~~  
 Rutland from youth of seventeen, <sup>as he was then a</sup> ~~as he was then a~~  
<sup>more valiant</sup> ~~more valiant~~ <sup>schoolmaster</sup> ~~schoolmaster~~  
 who than twenty miles from Wakefield, in the  
 village of Towton, & near the village is a meadow  
 where the ground is rich & rank, there is a Ricket  
 of wild roses, red & white, growing together in  
 loving clusters. This meadow was the scene of  
 one of the most bloody battles ever fought on  
 English ground, fought upon the 29<sup>th</sup> of March, 1461  
 between the Earl of Lancaster & the White Rose of  
 York. & having it was said 30,000 or 40,000  
 men & women on the field. Again the hardy men  
 of the north gathered from mountain & moor

Moor under the banners of the Red Rose, is  
 the number 1 - is said of Duke-Mountbatten. Their  
 leaders were the earls of Northumberland & Westmor-  
 land & other great nobles of the north & south.  
 Henry & Queen Margaret remained  
 in safety at York, some eight miles off.  
 Under the White Rose of York an almost  
 equal army was gathered, & they, too, had the  
 "Lion of France" in their midst. For Edward  
 the eldest son of the fallen Duke of York had  
 been duly crowned King of England at Westminster.  
 Moreover they had the earl of Warwick, one of the  
 the barons of England, who could raise an army  
 from his own vassals; the King-maker, he was  
 called, because men said he could make a  
 king or unmake a king in England.

At four o'clock on the Saturday afternoon, it is  
 said, the two armies met, & they fought blindly  
 through the night, & on into the quiet of Palm  
 Sunday. The snow falling thick all the time  
 laying a white sheet over the plain. No  
 quarter, no prisoners, was the order on  
 both sides. At first they fought with arrows,  
 then the archers threw aside their bows,  
 drew their swords & a terrible hand-to-hand  
 conflict began. At last the Lancastrians  
 began to give way, retreating in order until  
 they reached the little River Cock which winds  
 round the "Bloody Meadow", which was at  
 this time swollen by the winter rains. They  
 descended to the river by a very steep road.  
 The men from behind fell headlong upon them  
 in front so many perished in the water that  
 the rest crossed over the dead bodies of their  
 comrades. Edward returned to London undisputed  
 King. Margaret & Henry fled into Scotland  
 and there a violent quarrel was made of dead bodies on the

This fight was the last of the Wars of the Roses. It was fought on the 29th of May 1471.

The battle of Tewkesbury was fought on the 4th of May 1471. It was the last battle of the Wars of the Roses.

Sales of Pontefract Castle.  
Memories of Pontefract

8p49cm34

"O Pomfret, Pomfret! O thou bloody prison.  
Fatal & ominous to noble peers!" - Rich. III.

Before we leave the Aire Valley we must see the town of Pontefract: not that it is a place of very great importance now, but because the name occurs over & over again in our history books, & there are <sup>few</sup> hardly a town in England to which more interesting memories belong.

Pontefract is a clean, pleasant country town, & on Saturdays, a great market is held for corn & cattle. A rather curious crop is raised in the neighbourhood: long ridges of very pretty plant with feathery leaves fill up the fields: for years years this plant is allowed to grow, then it is pulled up by the roots, long roots, reaching ten or twelve feet into the soil. The roots are powdered, & the juice pressed from them is made into dark lozenges stamped with Pontefract Gate - the Pontefract liquorice lozenges that most Yorkshire children know.

But it owes to its Castle that Pontefract owed its Ancient Fame, a Castle that for 600 years was the glory & the terror of North Yorkshire. When the Conqueror led his army into Yorkshire, he granted the County this district - stretching for a wide zone to Lord de Lacy; & he, finding a high rock which commanded the Aire, raised upon it a renowned stronghold, from which he was able to keep much of the country in subjection. An immense Castle it was, surrounded by a high wall flanked by seven towers, & without was a broad, to be crossed by a drawbridge.

And there were dungeons in the deep, frightful dungeons; one of them <sup>was said</sup> to be reached only through a hole in the trap door in the floor of the <sup>common</sup> hall, & there <sup>was</sup> a prison let down into its pitchy darkness <sup>where</sup> <sup>had</sup>

Small hope of being hauled up into the light of day again.

Whenever rebellion or civil war broke out in the northern counties both sides struggled for the possession of this great stronghold, & that is why the name of Pontefract appears so often in books of English history.

### Saint-Thomas of Lancaster.

Thomas of Lancaster was a mighty baron, the grandson of a king, (Henry III.), the lord of great earldoms; he dwelt at his castle of Pontefract with the state of his prince, surrounded by a great host of retainers, all of whom were clothed by his tailors & ate of his meat.

He was the people's friend; and only in Yorkshire, but all over England, men looked to him to deliver them from the burden of heavy unjust-taxation. For the king, Edward II., gave his heart & his time to worthless favourites, & to his unhappy people that he might have money to spend upon idle pleasures. One of these favourites was Piers Gaveston, a glit-tongued foreigner who thought little of insulting England's greatest nobles. The exasperated barons, aware of foreign favourites even did they know how to shake them. So, rose at length under Thomas of Lancaster, followed Gaveston to Scarborough Castle where he had taken refuge, took the castle, secured their prisoners, & carried him to Blacklow Hill near Warwick where he was beheaded by order of Lancaster. The king dissembled in rage after a while, for could he restore his favourites to life? & a hollow peace was patched up. The victorious barons suing for the royal pardon & the king again provided a peace. But, before long, the king again provoked the people by setting up new favourites, & the common people by setting up new favourites, & so he spent his time, father & son, who had been, in the first place, dependents of Thomas of Lancaster. Again the barons rose under him.